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FOR INFORMATION

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Executive Board
First organizational session

REPORT ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE PERIOD 1 AUGUST 1990 TO 31 JULY 1991

1. The Executive Board of UNICEF, with its composition as of 1 August 1990, held its 8th meeting at United Nations Headquarters on 25 June 1990, under the chairmanship of Ms. Margarita Dieguez (Mexico), for the purpose of electing officers for the period 1 August 1990 to 31 July 1991. The documentation for the session consisted of the provisional agenda (E/ICEF/1990/L.18) and an information note on the organizational session of the Executive Board (E/ICEF/1990/L.19). A list of representatives and observers attending the session is given in document E/ICEF/1990/CRP.33.

Election of the Chairman of the Executive Board

2. Mrs. Lisbet Palme (Sweden) was elected Chairman of the Executive Board.

Election of the Vice-Chairmen of the Executive Board

3. The following Vice-Chairmen were elected:

First Vice-Chairman: H.E. Ms. Mira Seth (India);

Second Vice-Chairman: Dr. Burkhard Schneeweiss (German Democratic Republic);

Third Vice-Chairman: H.E. Mr. Ramiro Piriz Ballon (Uruguay);

Fourth Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Asma Mohamed Abdalla (Sudan).

Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Programme Committee

4. Mr. Gabriel N. Fernandez (Liberia) was elected Chairman of the Programme Committee and H.E. Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury (Bangladesh) Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Administration and Finance

5. Mr. Frederick Ward (Canada) was elected Chairman of the Committee on Administration and Finance and Mrs. Judith Springer (Barbados) Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

Election of UNICEF representation on the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy (JCHP)

6. The UNICEF/WHO JCHP meets biennially, and its next session is scheduled for 28 to 30 January 1991.

7. The Board elected Mrs. Esther Ashton (Bolivia), Mrs. Elsie Mbella Ngomba (Cameroon), Dr. Suyono Yahya (Indonesia) and Dr. Audrey Manley (United States of America) as UNICEF representatives on the Joint Committee. Mrs. Judith Springer (Barbados) and Dr. Burkhard Schneeweiss (German Democratic Republic) were elected as alternates. The Chairman of the Executive Board and the Chairman of the Programme Committee are ex officio members.

Other business

8. It was announced that, because the original dates conflicted with the JCHP meeting, the second organizational session would be held on 4 and 5 February 1991.

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7 August 1990

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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Executive Board
Special session

FOR ACTION

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Special session of the Executive Board on the World Summit for Children, to be held at United Nations Headquarters on 6 and 7 September 1990

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Opening statements by the Chairman of the Executive Board and the Executive Director.

3. Introduction and discussion of the progress report on the World Summit for Children (E/ICEF/1990/16) and the drafts of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and of the Plan of Action (E/ICEF/1990/L.20).

[Following agenda item 3, the Committee on Administration and Finance will meet (for the provisional agenda, see annex)]

4. Statement by the Chairman of the Committee on Administration and Finance.

5. Adoption of decisions.

6. Other business.

7. Concluding remarks.

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Annex

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Statement by the Deputy Executive Director, Operations.

3. Consideration of the revised budget estimates for the World Summit for Children (E/ICEF/1990/AB/L.16).

4. Other business.

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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Executive Board
Special session
6 and 7 September 1990

FOR INFORMATION

PROGRESS REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

SUMMARY

The present document reports on the progress in the planning and preparations for the World Summit for Children since the regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board in April 1990. It includes sections on the drafting of the Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action; the formulation of an agenda and format; some of the world-wide activities aimed at stimulating interest in and mobilizing commitment for the Summit; and some of the regional and country-level initiatives undertaken in response to the Summit. The revised budget estimates for the Summit are contained in document E/ICEF/1990/AB/L.16.

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its special session in December 1989 and its regular session in April 1990, the Executive Board decided to review, at a special session in early September 1990, the preparations for the World Summit for Children.

2. The present progress report will deal with the process of organizing and preparing the World Summit for Children; the drafting of a final declaration and a plan of action; the work of formulating an agenda and format for the meeting; the mobilization of interest and attention world wide around the Summit; and some of the initiatives undertaken at the country level to exploit the opportunity presented by this meeting to improve the situation of children. The revised budget estimates for the Summit are contained in document E/ICEF/1990/AB/L.16.

I. ORGANIZATION AND PREPARATION

3. The period since the Executive Board met in April 1990 has seen an overwhelming response to the Secretary-General's letter of invitation on behalf of the six initiating Governments (Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden). By mid-August, over 60 heads of State or Government had agreed to attend, with many others still to be officially heard from and with indications that many more are likely to attend.

4. The Planning Committee met on 19 and 20 June 1990 to review developments and the progress made by the working groups on format and on the draft World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the draft Plan of Action (E/ICEF/1990/L.20). In addition, a meeting of personal representatives of the heads of State or Government planning to attend was held at Ottawa on 27 July 1990. A further meeting of the Planning Committee, involving all participating Governments, is scheduled for 12 September 1990, to take into account the further comments of the UNICEF Executive Board.

5. The Planning Committee agreed to the suggestions for a format and agenda as summarized below and approved the drafts of the Declaration and of the Plan of Action separately submitted to the Board in the note by the Executive Director (E/ICEF/1990/L.20).

6. As requested by the Executive Board in its decision 1990/12, the Planning Committee took into account the views expressed on the World Summit for Children. The Executive Director reported these views to the Planning Committee at its June meeting. His report is contained in a memorandum dated 22 May 1990 and entitled "The UNICEF Executive Board's consideration of the World Summit for Children and related issues". To it were attached the decisions of the Executive Board on the Summit (E/ICEF/1990/CRP.16), strategies for children (E/ICEF/1990/CRP.27) and creating a more peaceful world for children (E/ICEF/1990/CRP.18). Annexed to the memorandum were the text of the 1982 Executive Board message to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament and the complete list of the "Goals for Children and Development in the 1990s". This memorandum was

provided to all members of the Planning Committee and is available to interested members of the Executive Board.

II. DRAFT DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION

7. The working group on the draft Declaration and the draft Plan of Action followed a broadly participatory process involving not only Governments but also - consistent with the wishes of the Executive Board at its special session in December 1989 - incorporating the views and suggestions of relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies. The views of many non-governmental organizations (NGOs), conveyed through delegations and the secretariat, have also been duly reflected.

8. As a result of extended working group consultations, the drafts of the Declaration and the Plan of Action have benefited not only from initial suggestions, but also from the considered views of delegations, many of whom are represented on the Executive Board of UNICEF.

9. Any views expressed by the Executive Board at the current session will, of course, be similarly conveyed to the Planning Committee for its further consideration.

III. AGENDA AND FORMAT

10. The World Summit for Children is not an international conference but a true summit meeting, intended for participation at the head of State or Government level. The Planning Committee has agreed on the following format and agenda for the Summit.

11. The facilities of the United Nations Headquarters have been made available and all appropriate support will be provided. The United Nations will regard all attending heads of State or Government and their accredited delegations as visitors to United Nations Headquarters, with all the normal procedures and arrangements. This obviates the need for a Summit "host", and additional services, accommodation and other arrangements outside United Nations Headquarters will be the responsibility of respective delegations. As the Board agreed, UNICEF - in collaboration with the United Nations Secretariat - is providing the Summit with secretariat services and the necessary administrative support.

12. In addition to group and on-site briefings, a final pre-summit meeting of personal representatives of attending heads of State or Government may be held, if necessary, on Thursday, 27 September 1990. The various arrangements and other information for participants are detailed in arrangements note No. 1 (CF/WSC/1990/GEN-001).

13. One particular initiative, the Summit Forum, to be organized in conjunction with the Summit, is an opportunity to engage Governments, non-governmental experts and the media in the substance of Summit issues. The purpose is to provide a public elaboration of the nature, challenge and opportunity of those issues.

14. It is expected that some 800 journalists, governmental and non-governmental representatives, heads of international agencies and experts from other institutions will participate in two plenary and 16 panel meetings. The intent is to focus closely on the directly practicable actions to meet children's needs in the areas of child rights, education, the impact of war and of economic forces and the role of various institutions and sectors of society.

15. The Forum is intended to provide an opportunity for an exchange of ideas and information among those who will bear principal policy and operational responsibility for implementing the Declaration and Plan of Action. Plenary speakers and panelists will include religious leaders, Nobel laureates, children representing various children's "summits" organized in past months in preparation for the World Summit for Children and leading personalities from the media and the arts around the world. Participants in the Forum include government authorities, leaders of international institutions and agencies, leading NGOs and other voluntary institutions, scientists, the media, commentators and children themselves.

16. The Forum will present factual reports on the situation facing children around the world, with emphasis on both the progress achieved in recent years and the major challenges affecting children in the decade ahead. Leaders in science and government will present the latest thinking on prospects for accelerated progress for children in the 1990s. National and international reports will describe important steps being taken by governmental and non-governmental organizations to improve the future of children; and leaders of the non-profit and profit sectors will discuss their support for actions on key health, education and children's rights issues.

17. The programme of the World Summit for Children is set out in arrangements note No. 2 (CF/WSC/1990/GEN-014) which has been provided to all permanent missions to the United Nations. It begins on the evening of 29 September 1990, with a private dinner for the attending heads of State and Government only, hosted by the Co-Chairmen and the six initiating Governments. The dinner is intended to facilitate informal discussion. A formal discussion programme is not anticipated and there will be no general media coverage.

18. The programme on Sunday, 30 September 1990, commences as arriving participants gather in a setting that will facilitate informal small group and bilateral discussions.

19. The formal meeting will begin at 9.30 a.m. on 30 September 1990 with an invited audience and general media coverage. A keynote video presenting the situation of children and opportunities for improvement is being produced for this meeting.

20. The opening meeting will be followed by a discussion for all participating heads of State or Government, which the media will follow through closed circuit television. During this meeting, it is likely that previously agreed upon representative heads of State will make brief presentations that will serve to introduce several of the main substantive themes of the draft Declaration and the draft Plan of Action.

21. All attending heads of State or Government will be encouraged to engage, extemporaneously and as succinctly as possible, in the ensuing discussion. Each State has the opportunity of providing in advance or at the time of the meeting a "national paper", describing the situation of children in that country, actions under way and new or anticipated initiatives.

22. A private working luncheon for heads of State or Government will follow the morning discussion, which will be continued in the afternoon.

23. The formal concluding meeting of the World Summit for Children will take place before an invited audience and will allow for general media coverage, as at the opening meeting. This meeting will include summary statements on the proceedings and results of the session, as well as the signature ceremony of the Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children. An official press conference on the Summit will be conducted by the Co-Chairmen and any other interested heads of State or Government upon conclusion of the Summit.

24. On the morning of 1 October 1990, the results of the World Summit for Children, including the signed Declaration and the Plan of Action, will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly.

IV. INTERNATIONAL MOBILIZATION

25. The central challenge of the World Summit for Children - putting child survival, protection and development on the political agenda and making the enormous toll of child death and disease not only unnecessary, but unconscionable - has caught the imagination of a broad range of supporters. At the international level, youth, spiritual leaders, journalists, NGOs and individuals have rallied to discuss, to support publicly and to contribute their energies to mobilizing action around, and generating attention for, the Summit.

26. The present progress report attempts to present only illustrative highlights of the scores of international and regional initiatives undertaken in response to the World Summit for Children.

27. For example, some 150 religious and spiritual leaders from 12 faiths and 40 countries, meeting at Princeton in late July 1990, gave official voice to the principle that children should be given a "first call" on the human and material resources of the society for the essentials required for their survival, protection and development. This was the first such meeting devoted entirely to concerns related to children. In the Declaration that emerged from the meeting, it was noted that, despite different traditions, practices and beliefs, "and despite our inadequacies", the assembled religious leaders addressed heads of State and Government, the United Nations and religious communities with a "common voice" directed to "all ... who have held a child in love, with joy for its life, with tears for its pain".

28. In the Declaration and an action plan, the participants urged political leaders to encourage ratification and implementation of the Convention on the

Rights of the Child, including the diversion of at least 10 to 15 per cent of military spending to the task of its implementation. Pledging its active support for this and other goals - including the "Goals for Children and Development in the 1990s" - the meeting's action plan invited religious bodies to be "vigilant in defence of the rights of children".

29. Other actions planned include use of the weekend immediately preceding the World Summit for Children by religious bodies at every level - international, regional, national and local - to promote a time of world-wide prayer and fasting, as may be appropriate. An NGO initiative also timed for that weekend expects more than 1 million people to take part in at least 317 candlelight vigils in 36 countries on 23 September 1990. The Princeton action plan also calls for special activities with children and by children to focus community attention on children's needs and responsibilities.

30. All UNICEF offices have been encouraged to take full advantage of these new opportunities for involvement by religious and spiritual institutions and individuals in efforts for the survival, protection and development of children. They have been urged to help make the ceremonies and religious practices of 21-23 September 1990 meaningful in generating or redoubling commitment to priority activities for children, and to facilitate, whenever possible, courtesy calls by inter-faith delegations to heads of State or Government to present copies of the Princeton declaration.

31. Further examples of the international mobilization of opinion for the World Summit for Children come from the response of non-governmental leadership. In May, chief executive officers of the major international humanitarian and development NGOs with headquarters in Europe discussed the Summit's significance for their work. In a common statement formally transmitted to the Summit Co-Chairmen, the group committed NGOs to help implement the Summit Plan of Action. The group stressed that that task, which required the mobilization of all sectors of society, could not be fulfilled by Governments alone and that NGOs were ready and able to play a vital role both nationally and internationally.

32. Seventeen international youth NGOs have formed the first Youth NGO Consultative Group for Children. This new network is convening a round table at Geneva from 15 to 18 September 1990, on the "Children First" theme. The network will examine the role youth can play in helping to reach the goals established for children in the 1990s. To this end, action kits to guide the work of youth NGOs on children's issues will be developed covering health, education, the environment, child rights and economic adjustment questions.

33. A children's congress is being organized by a group of international children's organizations to take place in New York City on 24 September 1990. Children under the age of 15 years from over 85 countries will discuss issues of interest to them, share experiences and views and consider recommendations for action by heads of State or Government. The participants will represent a full range of social and economic groups and will include children without families and children directly affected by armed conflict.

34. In a collaborative effort, the annual NGO conference organized by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat in 1990 has taken as its theme "A World Safe for Children: Meeting the Challenge in the 1990s". The conference is to take place at United Nations Headquarters from 12 to 14 September 1990. While it normally addresses issues on the General Assembly agenda, this year the conference will serve instead as a prelude to the World Summit for Children, providing an opportunity for over 2,000 NGO representatives to participate in the international dialogue on children. The conference will cover the themes of the Summit meeting itself and will review the key issues facing policy-makers and service-providers in the decade ahead.

V. REGIONAL SUPPORT

35. At the meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at Addis Ababa in July 1990, African leaders expressed firm commitment to the World Summit for Children. Similarly, the Organization of American States (OAS) at its June 1990 meeting at Asuncion, adopted a resolution in which it noted the important initiative of the Summit. Heads of State and Government and ministers from 15 developing countries meeting at Kuala Lumpur in early June 1990 supported the Summit and the principle of children first as not only a moral imperative, but also the basis for future economic development.

36. Other regional support has come from meetings such as the Arab mini-summit at Tunis in June 1990, in which 50 delegates - ministers, under-secretaries, technical experts and national non-governmental leaders - from 16 countries finalized a declaration for submission to the World Summit for Children. The meeting was hosted by the League of Arab States (LAS) and co-sponsored by the Arab Council of Childhood and Development.

37. Similarly, at Nairobi, in July 1990, delegates from 20 eastern and southern African countries representing Governments and religious, development, media, women, medical, youth and economic organizations took part in a consultative meeting, which issued its own declaration on priority issues for the African child.

VI. INFORMATION SUPPORT

38. Information support for the World Summit for Children has resulted in significant media coverage and various print and visual materials.

39. Briefing sessions for newspapers, news agencies and radio and television broadcasters have led to editorials and commentaries in important United States and European newspapers. A six-day seminar and field trip for European journalists was held in Egypt, in June 1990; and an eight-day field trip took United States journalists to four Central American countries in July 1990. Both of these events resulted in articles on child survival, protection and development issues. Strong interest in broadcast coverage has also been elicited from radio and television networks in Eastern and Western Europe, North America and several developing countries.

40. Print materials include a 16-page brochure for general briefing, an information kit on specific issues and a special Summit overview adapted from the 1990 report on the State of the World's Children.

41. To keep the growing number of those involved regularly informed on developments, a fortnightly newsletter, Summit Update, and an up-to-the-minute, electronically accessible database, Summitron, have been maintained. Additional products are planned, including a media kit and an inter-agency compilation of Summit opportunities for other organizations of the international system.

42. Audio-visual materials for the World Summit for Children range from video press releases to a compilation of radio reportage based on radio co-productions with European broadcasters, a mobilization video and the keynote video to be presented to the opening meeting of the Summit, which will be distributed for simultaneous television broadcast.

43. The video press releases cover the Secretary-General's announcement of the Summit in February 1990 and the announcement of Summit participants in August 1990. In addition, a three-minute information video has been compiled in English, French and Spanish for broadcast use.

44. The mobilization video, designed to present the central issues in as concise and graphic a form as possible, has been used with important audiences and decision makers to continue and sustain Summit momentum where appropriate opportunities present themselves - nationally, regionally and internationally.

45. The media centre of the World Summit for Children will make available audio and video highlights of the Summit proceedings and background video footage and audio material. A video account of the Summit, in three languages, is planned to be available in early October 1990.

46. On the eve of the Summit weekend, the International Herald Tribune will publish a special four-page supplement profiling Summit issues and expectations. Public fund-raising activities have also included links with the mass media and the development of materials. A multinational advertising company based in London, BSB Dorland, is organizing, on a pro-bono basis, the placement of full-page newspaper advertisements and television spots on issues affecting children from late September until December 1990.

47. Fund-raising and promotional products - Summit posters, T-shirts and stickers - are being sold through the Greeting Cards Operation, which is also handling the above-mentioned advertising compaign.

VII. THE SUMMIT AS OPPORTUNITY: COUNTRY-LEVEL ACTION

48. Some of the most important efforts undertaken around the World Summit for Children have been those aimed at accelerating and expanding programme delivery. The objectives of this work have been to contribute to country-level assessment of the situation of children and the relevance to that situation of the goals and strategies for children in the 1990s and, especially, to use Summit momentum for country programme and/or Summit objectives.

49. Regional and country office workplans have been developed globally to pursue these objectives.

50. By the time of writing, it was clear that an outstanding global result of the Summit's potency as an instrument of mobilization would be the entering into force, on 2 September 1990, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 30 calendar days after the first 20 countries ratified it. The progress of this Convention to the status of international law, binding upon all ratifying nations, in less than a year from its adoption by the General Assembly, bore out the predictions of many speakers at the Executive Board in April. No other international human rights instrument has ever been ratified so quickly, nor entered into force so rapidly.

51. The effect on programmes for children will be far-reaching since the provisions of the Convention add the weight of international legal authority to urgent action for the well-being of children and, in turn, to the child-specific development goals for the 1990s as tangible expressions of what is intended by the Convention. This mutual reinforcement of the Convention and the goals for children in the 1990s is a powerful tool for advocacy, within Government and within society.

52. The UNICEF secretariat, notably the Planning Office at headquarters, has supported the process of drafting the Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action, helping synthesize comments and recommendations by Governments and United Nations agencies. A sourcebook of 27 thematic papers has been compiled as a substantive reference. Copies are available for interested delegations.

53. Briefing kits have been assembled for heads of State and Government in the countries where UNICEF is working. These consist of an abbreviated overview adapted from the 1990 report on the State of the World's Children, a report on the situation of children in the concerned country itself and the draft Declaration and the draft Plan of Action.

54. While the six initiating Governments of the World Summit for Children do not seek a pledging conference of commitments to individual projects and activities, the Summit is intended to prompt Governments and others to examine how they may best contribute to the achievement of the goals and objectives to be put forth in the draft Declaration and draft Plan of Action. The initiating Governments have therefore sought to stimulate new initiatives in all countries, and among the international community, to address those issues that most critically affect children for the decade ahead.

55. This is indeed taking place. Many Governments are considering initiatives that they might present at the Summit, either unilaterally or in groups, to address major needs of children. Consultations are in progress regarding such challenges as developing a single-dose, multi-immunization vaccine (generally called "the children's vaccine"). Another challenge is the more concerted use of mass media and the communication environment for support to education, following the lead provided by at least 10 heads of State or Government in the national promotion of the Facts for Life initiative and the dedication in several countries of television or radio "prime time" to communications on developments benefiting children.

56. UNICEF welcomes these initiatives as fundamentally necessary to the practical achievement of the established goals adopted by the Executive Board and the World Health Organization (WHO) and as contained in the draft Declaration and the draft Plan of Action.

57. Country-level mobilization for the objectives of the World Summit for Children and for specific programme actions seeks to raise public awareness and generate additional resources - political, governmental, non-governmental and religious. To date, 57 countries have reported intensive efforts ranging from engaging the attention and commitment of the heads of State or Government to children's problems and the mobilization of resources for a specific programme action. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and universal child immunization have been major beneficiaries of these efforts.

58. Some 40 regional and national conferences (mini-summits), aiming to improve the situation of children, have taken place, endorsing both the goals and strategies for children in the 1990s and expressing support for the objectives of the World Summit for Children. A number of examples are detailed below. Endorsement of the goal of education for all and of literacy campaigns have been the focus in 10 countries. Political leaderships and communicators have together promoted the Facts for Life communication initiative.

59. Special meetings of parliamentary, cabinet and religious groups in 12 countries have reviewed the problems of children and agreed to address constraints and shortfalls. In eight countries, special national committees have been established, at a senior level and on a continuing basis, to regularly monitor the situation of children. Particular priorities such as the situation of the girl child and adjustment with a human face have received substantial attention in countries where analyses of the situation of women and children were publicized.

60. These efforts will continue, seeking to build on the momentum created by the World Summit for Children and to integrate consequent opportunities into workplans for 1991. The continuing effects of such mobilization are evidenced, in some cases, by the establishment of new entities crossing sectoral divisions to address the problems of children in a holistic way. In Brazil, a new institution will seek to improve and extend social services to the country's 62 million children and adolescents, promoting health and literacy efforts and looking particularly at community-based approaches. Councils to guide government action for children and adolescents are to be created in all 4,300 of Brazil's municipalities.

61. In Bangladesh, an inter-ministerial Committee on the Convention of the Rights of the Child was created to bring together ministries of social welfare, law, women and religious affairs, among others, to discuss Bangladesh's participation in the World Summit for Children.

62. The Islamic Republic of Iran is taking the occasion of the World Summit for Children to launch a $360 million literacy campaign for 2 million people, primarily women and girls. Television and radio stations will broadcast daily lessons and special programmes incorporating Facts for Life and other messages specifically designed for particular localities. To reinforce national goals and strategies for children and development in the 1990s, an international festival of children's films will be used to promote the Declaration and the Programme of Action.

63. At the time of writing, at least 47 national conferences, hundreds of mini-summits, children and youth seminars and non-governmental forums were being held in the developing world in support of the World Summit for Children.

64. In Sierra Leone, where the programme mobilization strategy is based on structures of the community and the society, nearly 200 mini-summits will be held in the country's 150 chiefdoms and 12 district capitals, involving more than 17,000 decision makers. Other mini-summits will involve teachers, market-women, religious leaders, farmers, traditional entertainers, women leaders, health professionals and non-governmental workers. These will feed into a national summit for children preceding the President's departure for the World Summit for Children and will reconvene upon his return when workplans will be drawn up.

65. Thailand has announced plans for a National Conference on the Thai Child with participation at the highest levels of Government and 500 representatives of concerned departments, NGOs, mass media and academic, business and religious groups.

66. In Ghana and in the Gambia, nationally organized commissions or committees opened debate on issues affecting children, while a programme of community summits throughout Pakistan was launched in Baluchistan, in July 1990, with a gathering of 300 community heads, opinion leaders, elected representatives and field-level health education and social welfare officials.

67. In India, 12 universities are organizing a series of two-day symposia on the rights of the child, varying the focus from juridical perspectives to consideration of the status of children in Indian society and seeking ways in which academics, scholars and students might support children's rights and the ratification of the Convention.

68. The participation of children has been another objective of Summit preparations. In June 1990, 50,000 children in Ecuador, took part in a national poll to determine their priority concerns. In voting for the right most important to them, they chose not the right to play, but the right to protection from drugs, sexual abuse and all forms of violence. The ballots listing 14 categories of rights were cast in official election ballot boxes at electoral district centres. The poll was sponsored by the Ecuadorian Supreme Electoral Tribunal, the Central Bank of Ecuador's Working Children Programme and Defence for Children International.

69. In China, some 120,000 children from 29 provinces and regions shared ideas on children's rights for a better world at a July 1990 meeting in Qing Dao organized by the All China Women's Federation, the China Children's Foundation and the Youth League. In Nepal, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides have collected 23,000 signatures in a petition to ratify the Convention.

70. At the 1990 Goodwill Games at Seattle, Washington, over 200 children ran a mile and 65 young bicyclists from 10 countries finished a 3,000-mile cross-country ride to draw attention to some of the problems of children addressed by the World Summit for Children. The Games concluded with ceremonies that included the theme song for the Summit's candlelight vigils.

71. At a mini-summit held at Amman in August 1990, 200 Arab children discussed children's issues - regionally and globally - and appealed to the heads of State and to the Summit to give these issues proper priority.

72. Participation at the national level has been a constant theme of Summit preparations in the industrialized countries as well. At their thirty-fifth annual meeting at Barcelona, in June 1990, National Committees for UNICEF reaffirmed their support of the Summit and exchanged ideas on implementation. National Committee activities have covered every aspect of advocacy and mobilization. The following is an illustrative rather than a comprehensive report of their activities.

73. Forging new alliances with political leaders and NGOs, the United States Committee is organizing together with some 60 NGOs in the country over 100 "town meetings" or city-based "local summits" that will bring together concerned politicians, NGOs and others in efforts to stimulate direct actions of benefit to children, including free child immunization days planned for Baltimore and Washington.

74. Many committees are focusing on development education. The Canadian Committee is providing schools with kits for youth summits to be held across the country. The Australian Committee is organizing youth mini-summits involving local sports and media personalities, politicians, State education departments and local NGOs.

75. In June 1990, the Netherlands Committee arranged a meeting between a dozen Nobel laureates and 86 teenagers from 54 countries in Amsterdam. The Greek Committee organized a pre-Summit exhibition on the Convention. The Turkish First Lady, patron of the Turkish Committee, led a national seminar. The 1990 World Cup, televised to millions of viewers around the world, promoted both the Summit and the Convention; the Italian National Committee organized a lottery for the benefit of children.

76. Upcoming events in the United Kingdom include mobilization of inter-faith religious groups and a nation-wide fund-raising and advocacy campaign - UNICEF Week in the United Kingdom - during the last week of September. A major post-Summit conference will be held in Wales. Local and regional summits are being organized by the Finnish Committee for 20 November 1990, the anniversary of the General Assembly adoption of the Convention.

77. In Sweden, the Prime Minister has called a mini-summit for political youth groups and sports organizations, NGOs working with children and media representatives, with participation by the Social Welfare Ministry, to be held on 25 August 1990. A summit for all of Stockholm's 15,000 social welfare workers will be held at an open-air museum on 30 September 1990.

78. An International Post-Summit Colloquium will be hosted by the Italian Committee at Venice in October 1990, for National Committees, NGOs, educators, journalists and Italian Government decision makers, to examine the course for future action in the light of the Summit's outcome.

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Executive Board
Special session

PROGRESS REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Corrigendum

Paragraph 69, line 1

For 120,000 children read 120 children

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